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dated November, 16th, 2004

Claims

1. Device for voicing phonemes, comprising:
 - a keyboard, which keyboard comprises at least one support structure and a plurality of keys connected to the support structure, wherein each key of at least a number of the keys is designated with at least one linguistic symbol,
 - an electronic processing unit connected to the keyboard for recording keystrokes, and
 - sound-producing means connected electronically to the processing unit,
- 10 characterized in that the processing unit is provided with conversion means for converting at least one recorded keystroke into a signal for a phoneme corresponding to the linguistic symbol of this at least one keystroke, wherein the sound-producing means are adapted for voicing of the phoneme.
- 15 2. Device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that at least one phonetic symbol is shown on each of at least a number of the keys of the keyboard.
3. Device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the processing unit is connected electronically to visualizing means for visualizing the phonemes associated
- 20 with the keystrokes.
4. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the conversion means are adapted for conversion of a plurality of entered keystrokes into a single signal corresponding with these keystrokes.
- 25 5. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the processing unit is connected electronically to at least one database in which is stored a plurality of words and phonemes corresponding with these words.
- 30 6. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the processing unit is formed by a central processing unit (CPU).
7. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the sound-producing means are formed by at least one loudspeaker.

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8. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the device is also provided with at least one information carrier, which information carrier is provided with the conversion means.
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9. Keyboard for use in a device as claimed in claim 2, and any of the claims 1, 3-8.
10. Method for voicing phonemes with a device as claimed in any of the claims 1-8, comprising the steps of:
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- A) a user pressing at least one key,
- B) the processing unit recording the keystroke,
- C) converting the keystroke into a signal for a phoneme corresponding with the keystroke, and
- 15 D) acoustically producing the phoneme.
11. Method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that a plurality of keys are pressed during pressing of at least one key by the user according to operating step A), whereafter the entered keystrokes are converted as according to operating step C) into a single signal for a phoneme corresponding with the keystrokes.
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12. Method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the phoneme forms a word.
13. Method as claimed in any of the claims 10-12, characterized in that the method is provided with an operating step E), comprising of comparing the entered keystroke with words included in a database before the phoneme is produced acoustically as according to operating step D) and after the keystroke is recorded as according to operating step B).
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14. Method as claimed in any of the claims 10-13, characterized in that a delay of a determined time duration is present between recording of the keystroke by the processing unit as according to operating step B) and converting of the keystroke into a signal for a phoneme corresponding with the keystroke as according to operating step C).
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